

# OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## VIET NAM: TYPHOONS

Appeal No. MDRVN001  
7 March 2007

*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 185 countries.*

### In Brief

**Operations Update no. 04; Period covered: 19 January - 28 February 2007;**  
**Appeal target: CHF 4.2 million (USD 3.4 million or EUR 2.6 million)**  
**Appeal coverage: 31.5 %; outstanding needs: CHF 2.87 million**  
*([Click here for the attached Contributions List](#)) ([click here for the live update](#))*

#### Appeal history:

- Preliminary emergency appeal for Typhoon Xangsane launched on 5 Oct 2006 to seek CHF 998,110 (USD 801,177 OR EUR 629,490) for 61,000 beneficiaries for 12 months.
- The appeal was revised on 13 October 2006 to CHF 1.67 million (USD 1.4 million or EUR 1.1 million) for 60,400 beneficiaries to reflect operational realities.
- The appeal was relaunched as Viet Nam Typhoons Emergency Appeal (MDRVN001) on 7 December 2006 to incorporate Typhoon Durian. It requests CHF 4.2 million (USD 3.4 million or EUR 2.6 million) in cash, kind, or services to assist 98,000 beneficiaries for 12 months.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated: for Xangsane and Durian at CHF 100,000 each.

#### Operational Summary:

While two components of the operation are progressing well, the overall operation is hampered by limited funding to the appeal. This month, the Viet Nam Red Cross (VNRC) operation diverted its attention to traditional activities prior to the lunar new year or Tet, as it is locally known. The operations will regain momentum next month with the planned distribution of rice and reconstruction of houses for people hit by the typhoons.

Lack of fund has challenged the VNRC in achieving the appeal objectives to restore the lives of those made vulnerable by the disasters. Despite generous contribution from some Red Cross national societies and governments, low appeal coverage will force the VNRC to exclude the livelihood component, which would have otherwise created viable and sustainable sources of income for the affected. It would also entail a revision of the whole operation. However, it is noteworthy that during very short period of operations, national society's image has been enhanced locally within the diplomatic corps in the country, as well as with the Viet Nam government.



*Many people live in difficult circumstances after their homes collapsed.*

Xangsane: TC-2006-000144-VNM  
Durian: TC-2006-000175-VNM

## Background



*Shelters and household kits are very much needed .*

repair another 130,000. An official report estimated total needs are put at VND 1,000 billion (USD 60 million).

Beyond the loss of life, livelihoods and infrastructure, the typhoons had an impact on the local economy. According to the last operations update, it was reported that building material has increased by 50 – 100 percent of their normal retail price and stocks were being depleted, leading communities to turn to the use of water coconut leaves as raw construction material.

The central government, through the People Aid Coordination Committee, called for domestic and international support. It allocated a substantial amount of funds to help recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation, as well as tonnes of rice and construction material, while looking into a food subsidy programme and tax reduction for affected businesses. Additional compensation to families that lost homes is being provided through the National Fatherland Front (NFF), a political coalition organization.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

While two components of the appeal are progressing well, the overall operation is hampered by limited funding. This month, the VNRC operation diverted its attention to traditional activities prior to the lunar new year or Tet, as it is locally known. Parallel to typhoon-related relief work, the national society was busy with its activities for Tet, where the headquarters spent nearly VND 2 billion (USD 120,000) buying gifts for poor and disaster-struck people nationwide. The operations will gain momentum next month with the planned distribution of rice and reconstruction of houses for people hit by the typhoons.

Nevertheless, the VNRC has, from the start of the operation covering the Xangsane and Durian typhoons, been quick to provide emergency food and household kits, thanks to the disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) released from the Federation and through its own sources. 5,700 household kits has been distributed to date containing cooking and kitchen utensils, a mosquito net, two blankets, a 40-litre water plastic container (for water storage) and a ten-litre water plastic container (for water collection). In addition, communities in Vinh Long province have received plastic sheets for temporary shelters, while other communities have received medicines and clothes. In Binh Thuan province, supplementary food items such as vegetable oils, sugars have been provided through emergency cash assistance from VNRC's resources. The shelter component is also moving forward, with 195 families able to celebrate the Tet holidays in their new homes.



*People gather at a relief distribution point.*

Typhoon Durian hit the southern coastal provinces and Mekong delta on 5 December 2006. The eye of the typhoon crossed Phu Qui island in Binh Thuan province, causing damages across ten provinces, as well as Ho Ch Minh city and Can Tho city in Can Gio district. At least 98 people were killed and 1,770 people were injured.

Leaving behind a trail of destruction, Typhoon Durian damaged 200,000 houses (out of which 34,000 were destroyed), wrecked more than 850 schools and sunk 800 boats and caused significant losses in livelihoods. According to the national disaster management partnership, there is an urgent need to rebuild 22,000 houses and

However, as mentioned, lack of fund has challenged the VNRC in achieving the appeal objectives to restore the lives of those made vulnerable by the disasters. Despite generous contribution from some Red Cross national societies and governments, low appeal coverage (31.5%) will force the VNRC to exclude the livelihood component, which would have otherwise created viable and sustainable sources of income for the affected. It would also entail a revision of the whole operation.

However, it is noteworthy that during very short period of operations, national society's image has been enhanced locally within the diplomatic corps in the country, and the government has shown signs affirming the VNRC's position in disaster relief. Sharing appeals and updates and visits to foreign embassies in Hanoi has resulted in in-country contributions through the government of Viet Nam. Demonstrating the government's recognition of Red Cross and Red Crescent's role in emergency relief, the government consulted VNRC on the allocation of donations from Luxemburg and Macau. Although these funds were not channelled to the Federation appeal, the sharing of information was successful in mobilizing support as a whole to the Viet Nam's population made vulnerable by the typhoons.

The objectives below outline support to populations affected by Typhoon Xangsane and Typhoon Durian. For transparency and equity in the process of beneficiary selection, posters indicating the selection criteria have been posted at every relief distribution point to ensure communities are well informed.

### Food and Nutrition

**Objective:** Provision of food comprising a 15 kg ration of rice per person per month for 27,000 people for one month in the worst affected areas by February 2007.

The purchase of 291 tonnes of rice is still ongoing and will be finalized in March 2007, instead of February as planned because of the "Tet for the poor" activities and following holidays. Opening the bids for rice through announcements in the local media resulted in very competitive prices that were below market price, without reducing the quality of the product.

### Non-food items

**Objective:** Replenishment of 10,000 household kits distributed from VNRC emergency stocks.

The national society is procuring 3,700 household kits (in addition to 2,000 kits already bought in December 2006) to replenish its emergencies stock. The procurement is expected to be done in the months to come. So far, 5,700 families, have benefited from the basic and practical household items provided under the VNRC operations supported by the Federation. While the needs are extensive – the Southern part of Viet Nam is entering the rainy season and would need items like mosquito nets to prevent dengue fever – the current funds are not sufficient to meet the operation's target of 10,000 beneficiaries.

### Shelter

**Objective:** By September 2007, 2,000 families with no available means to rebuild their homes are living in typhoon-resistant houses with appropriate water and sanitation facilities.

Housing support is progressing for the planned 520 families, which was reduced in the previous operations update because of poor funding to the appeal. 210 families affected by typhoon Durian in the Southern provinces are currently selected for this component. Reconstruction has started after the traditional Tet holidays with the help of Red Cross



*Houses are handed over to beneficiaries.*

volunteers and members in the communes. Once the houses are built, 210 houses will provide shelters to at least 757 people, including 209 women, 270 children, 102 senior citizens, and 43 people with disabilities.

Out of the 310 houses to be built in the Central provinces of Thua Thien Hue, Da Nang, Quang Nam and Quang Tri, 195 houses have been completed and handed over to families that lost their homes by during the Xangsane typhoon. A total of 776 people including 145 women, 232 children, 58 senior citizens, and 29 people with disabilities started the lunar new year with brand new houses. Another 115 houses are under construction.

### Livelihoods

**Objective:** By September 2007, 2,500 households in the typhoon-affected areas, which lost homes and/or crops, have a viable and sustainable source of income.

Though a viable means to generate sustainable income for the poor, support for the livelihoods component has not improved because of a number of reasons, such as foot and mouth disease, risk of avian influenza reoccurrence, and most critically, the lack of funds. Low appeal coverage will force the Vietnam Red Cross and the Federation to cut this component out of the appeal.

### Institutional capacity building

**Objective:** Establishment of VNRC chapter/branch response teams covering needs assessment, monitoring, reporting, first aid and psychosocial support (PSP) from October 2006 to October 2007.

Activities are still waiting for additional funding.

### Monitoring and evaluation

Vietnam Red Cross receives continued support from the country delegation to strengthen the national society's capacity. The country delegation will focus on helping the VNRC headquarters and its chapters in matters such as appropriate financial reporting. The country delegation, together with the VNRC, will set up a framework for operations, aiming to support the national society in consistently following up its operations, while improving its accountability and ownership.

VNRC headquarters will continue to carry out monitoring trips to hand over houses to beneficiaries in Thua Thien Hue and Quang Tri. The monitoring team will discuss the findings and lessons learned from the trip with the Southern chapters to further improve programme implementation.

## How we work

*All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

### The Federation's Global Agenda

The International Federation's activities are aligned with under a Global Agenda, which sets out **four broad goals** to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

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# VIETNAM - TYPHOONS

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. MDRVN001

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

08/02/2007

| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|-------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|
|-------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|

### CASH

| REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF -----> |  |           |     | 4,210,045 |          | TOTAL COVERAGE<br>31.5%  |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------|-----|-----------|----------|--------------------------|
| AMERICAN - GOVT/USAID          |  | 100,000   | USD | 125,000   | 18.10.06 |                          |
| AMERICAN - RC                  |  | 25,000    | USD | 31,250    | 27.10.06 | EMERGENCY SHELTER REPAIR |
| AMERICAN - GOVT/USAID          |  | 100,000   | USD | 120,700   | 18.12.06 |                          |
| AMERICAN - RC                  |  | 38,000    | USD | 47,500    | 06.02.07 |                          |
| CANADIAN - GOVT                |  | 50,000    | CAD | 55,000    | 21.10.06 |                          |
| CHINA HON KONG - RC BRANCH     |  | 200,000   | HKD | 32,140    | 02.02.07 | SHELTER                  |
| GERMAN - RC                    |  | 80,000    | EUR | 127,280   | 06.12.06 |                          |
| JAPANESE - RC                  |  | 67,000    | USD | 83,750    | 01.11.06 |                          |
| JAPANESE - RC                  |  | 107,500   | USD | 131,096   | 18.01.07 |                          |
| NETHERLANDS - RC               |  | 40,000    | EUR | 63,600    | 03.11.06 |                          |
| NETHERLANDS - RC               |  | 40,000    | EUR | 64,300    | 07.12.06 |                          |
| PRIVATE DONORS ON LINE         |  |           |     | 2,229     | 29.12.06 |                          |
| PRIVATE DONORS ON LINE         |  |           |     | 123       | 04.01.07 |                          |
| SINGAPORE - RE                 |  | 10,000    | SGD | 8,000     | 14.12.06 |                          |
| SWEDISH - GOVT                 |  | 1,500,000 | SEK | 256,650   | 13.10.06 |                          |
| SWEDISH - GOVT                 |  | 1,000,000 | SEK | 175,000   | 13.12.06 |                          |
| SWISS - PRIVATE DONOR          |  |           |     | 320       | 25.10.06 |                          |
| VERF/WHO STAFF                 |  |           |     | 2,000     | 12.12.06 |                          |
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH     |  |           |     | 1,325,938 | CHF      | 31.5%                    |

### KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

| DONOR | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|-------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|
|       |          |          |      |           |      |         |

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| DONOR                               | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES |          |          |      | 0         | CHF  | 0.0%    |

## ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

| DONOR              | CATEGORY | QUANTITY | UNIT | VALUE CHF | DATE | COMMENT |
|--------------------|----------|----------|------|-----------|------|---------|
| SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED |          |          |      | 0         | CHF  |         |